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REVIEWED by *L. Kelly* DATE *4/28/89*  
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FOI, EO or PA exemptions \_\_\_\_\_  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 KABUL 0187

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR  
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MS. MILLIKAN; THE  
HAGUE FOR A-DAM AND R-DAM

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E.O. 12356: DECL: 02/01/93

TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, PREF, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 198

REF: KABUL 0144

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE BRIEFED TO JOURNALISTS EXCEPT WHERE OTHER WISE NOTED. (NOTE TO BRIEFERS IN ISLAMABAD, PESHAWAR AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING ON SUMMARIES AND SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM PARAS 4 AND 5.)

3. SUMMARY:

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A MASSIVE CAR BOMB EXPLOSION AND ATTACKS ON THE SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER, THE AIRPORT AND SEVERAL OTHER DRA FACILITIES, ALL STAGED FROM WITHIN THE CITY, HAVE RAISED TENSIONS IN KABUL AND PROMPTED THE REGIME AND THE SOVIETS TO UNDERTAKE SECURITY MEASURES ON A SCALE NOT SEEN SINCE THE SUMMER. ACCORDING TO NUMEROUS UNCONFIRMED REPORTS, MUJAHIDIN DOWNED AIRCRAFT AIRCRAFT IN KABUL PROVINCE, PARWAN AND NANGARHAR. THE PARWAN AIRCRAFT DOWNING ACCOMPANIES NUMEROUS REPORTS OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE AREA AND RESULTANT HEAVY CASUALTIES, PARTICULARLY AMONG SOVIET TROOPS. FIGHTING IN THE CAPITAL OF WARDAK PROVINCE HALTED TRAFFIC ON THE KABUL-GHAZNI-KANDAHAR ROAD FOR TWO DAYS WHILE THE SITUATION IN HERAT CONTINUES TENSE WITH REPORTS THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER HAS ADVISED AN EAST EUROPEAN AMBASSADOR NOT TO SEND PERSONNEL THERE BECAUSE IT IS TOO DANGEROUS. THE HEAD OF A PROVINCIAL RECONCILIATION COMMISSION WAS KILLED IN KUNDUZ AND, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC REPORTS, A DELEGATION SEEKING TO LUPE A MUJAHIDIN GROUP IN PARWAN TO THE REGIME SIDE WAS TAKEN PRISONER BY THE GROUP. A REPORT SOURCED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER CLAIMS HE WILL TRAVEL TO NEW DELHI NEXT WEEK IN THE FIRST SUCH HIGH LEVEL VISIT SINCE THE SOVIET INVASION. SHORTAGES OF DIESEL AND ELECTRICITY, THE LATTER IN PART RELATED TO INSUFFICIENT PRECIPITATION TO MAINTAIN HYDRO ELECTRIC GENERATORS, CONTINUE TO PLAGUE THE CAPITAL.  
END SUMMARY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 07 KABUL 0187

(C) 4. KABUL PYROTECHNICS: MUJAHIDIN DRAMATICALLY ESCALATED

THEIR ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CITY DURING THE WEEK (SEE  
"COMBAT IN THE PROVINCES," KABUL PARA 6), PROMPTING THE  
REGIME TO REINSTITUTE TALASHI'S (VEHICLE CHECKS) IN THE

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CAPTIAL ON A BROAD SCALE, BOTH DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AND AFTER NIGHTFALL. SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES ALSO TOOK UP POSITIONS AT MAJOR INTERSECTIONS OVERNIGHT.

--JANUARY 25: DIPLOMATS REPORTED HEARING AN EXPLOSION NEAR THE AIRPORT AT 1400. AT 1600 A DEPARTING AIRCRAFT DROPPED AN INCENDIARY FLARE (USED TO DIVERT HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES) WHICH LANDED IN THE U.S. EMBASSY COMPOUND, IGNITING A GRASS FIRE.

--JANUARY 26: A DIPLOMAT REPORTED HEARING AN EXPLOSION, PROBABLY CAUSED BY AN INCOMING ROCKET, IN SOUTHERN KABUL AT 1335. AT 1655 AN INCENDIARY FLARE DROPPED BY A DEPARTING AIRCRAFT IGNITED A GRASS FIRE AT THE U.S. EMBASSY. AN AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMED THAT ROCKETS STRUCK THE KHAIR KHANA AREA OVERNIGHT KILLING SIX.

--JANUARY 27: SEVERAL DIPLOMATS HEARD THREE EXPLOSIONS AT APPROXIMATELY 2132 IN THE AREA EAST OF WAZIR AKBAR KHAN, NEAR THE AIRPORT.

--JANUARY 28: SEVERAL DIPLOMATS REPORTED THAT OUTGOING ARTILLERY AND MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS WERE FIRED FROM SOUTHERN KABUL AT 0930, 0950, 1100 AND 1155.

--JANUARY 29: A DIPLOMAT NOTED EXPLOSIONS AT 2245, 2249 AND 2250, APPARENTLY CAUSED BY ROCKETS IMPACTING IN SOUTHERN KABUL.

--JANUARY 30: DIPLOMATS HEARD TWO EXPLOSIONS AT 0830. AT 1145 A DEPARTING AIRCRAFT DROPPED AN INCENDIARY FLARE WHICH IGNITED A GRASS FIRE IN THE U.S. EMBASSY COMPOUND. AT 1155 A FLARE FROM A DEPARTING AIRCRAFT IGNITED A 140 SQUARE METER GRASS FIRE AT THE WAZIR AKBAR KHAN RESIDENCE OF A WESTERN DIPLOMAT. THE DIPLOMAT SUFFERED MILD SMOKE INHALATION IN ATTEMPTING TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE. DURING THE EVENING AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTED SIGHTING TWO ROCKETS FIRED FROM THE DIRECTION OF PUGHMAN WHICH ARCHED WEST-TO-EAST OVER THE CITY.

##### 5. MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA:

(A) (AIR): THE PATTERN OF NIGHTTIME AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES CONTINUED DURING THE WEEK, WITH SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT, BOTH HELICOPTER AND FIXED WING, NOTED SEVERAL NIGHTS. ALL AIRCRAFT CONTINUED TO OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS. A USUALLY RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT AFTER 1600 A TIGHT SECURITY RING COMPOSED OF DRA TROOPS ENCIRCLES THE AIRPORT, LETTING NO AFGHANS PASS. WITHIN THE CIRCLE IS ANOTHER SECURITY RING COMPOSED OF ARMED SOVIET TROOPS. THE NEW SECURITY MEASURES REPORTEDLY COINCIDED WITH THE UPSURGE IN NIGHTTIME AIR ACTIVITIES AT THE AIRPORT. USE OF PARACHUTE CLUSTER FLARES APPEARED TO DECLINE SOMEWHAT ALTHOUGH THE CONTINUE TO BE DEPLOYED ALMOST DAILY.

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--JANUARY 30: A DIPLOMAT VISITING AT KARGHA, WEST OF KABUL, NOTED APPROXIMATELY 20 JET FIGHTER SORTIES FLYING SOUTHWEST TO NORTHEAST. PATTERNS BETWEEN 0915 AND 1100.

--JANUARY 31: ACCORDING TO A DIPLOMAT, THE REGULAR BAKHTAR BOEING-727 1500 DEPARTURE RECEIVED ESCORT SERVICE BY TWO MI-24 FLARE-DISPENSING AIRCRAFT.

--FEBRUARY 1: AT 0850, 1000, AND 1437 DEPARTING IL-76 AIRCRAFT RECEIVED PARACHUTE CLUSTER FLARE PROTECTION AND WERE ESCORTED BY FLARE-DISPENSING MI-24'S. AT 1437 A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED TWO JET FIGHTERS DISPENSING PARACHUTE FLARES SOUTHEAST AND NORTHWEST OF THE KABUL BASIN. AT LEAST THREE ADDITIONAL IL-76'S DEPARTED KABUL DURING THE DAY BUT DID NOT RECEIVE PARACHUTE FLARE PROTECTION.

(B) (VEHICULAR): DIPLOMATS OBSERVED MORE THAN NORMAL MOVEMENT OF SOVIET MILITARY AMBULANCES IN THE CITY, NOTABLY BETWEEN THE SOVIET MILITARY HOSPITAL AND THE AIRPORT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 07 KABUL 0187

(C) - -- JANUARY 27: BETWEEN 0440 AND 0530 DIPLOMATS OBSERVED A MASSIVE, LARGELY ARMOR SOVIET CONVOY WHICH MOVED WEST ON BLUE MOSQUE STREET. MANY OF THE ARMORED VEHICLES, WHICH INCLUDED T-62 TANKS, BTR'S AND BMP'S, BORE AN AIRBORNE INSIGNIA. AT APPROXIMATELY 0530 ABOUT TWENTY-

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FIVE SOVIET BMP'S AND BTR-70'S MOVED EAST ON BLUE MOSQUE STREET IN THE DIRECTION OF LOGAR. AT 0620 SIX BMP-2'S AND TWO BTR-70'S WERE PARKED HEADING EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD, APPARENTLY AWAITING A CONVOY THEY WERE TO ESCORT. AT 0640 AN AFGHAN CONVOY WAS OBSERVED ON SHAFAKHANA ROAD, AND ON THE NORTHERN TERMINUS OF THE LOGAR ROAD, HEADED SOUTH. THE CONVOY INCLUDED TWENTY-EIGHT COVERED TRUCKS AND MORE THAN FORTY SINGLE-TANK FUEL TRUCKS. AT 1120 A DRA CONVOY CONSISTING OF 30-40 GOVERNMENT COVERED TRUCKS AND THE SAME NUMBER OF FUEL TRUCKS, AS WELL AS AN ESCORT OF SIX BTR-152 AND TWO BROM'S, WAS NOTED IN NORTHERN KABUL. APPARENTLY BOUND FOR THE SALANG ROAD. AT 1425 THIRTY-TWO SOVIET-CREWED ARMORED VEHICLES (BMP'S AND BTR'S) PLUS TWO COVERED TRUCKS WERE SEEN HEADING WEST ON BLUE MOSQUE STREET.

-- JANUARY 28: AT 1100 A SOVIET CONVOY OF SIXTEEN COVERED TRUCKS, TWO GUN-MOUNTED TRUCKS AND TWO BMP'S WAS OBSERVED HEADING THROUGH NORTHERN KABUL TO THE SALANG ROAD. LATER IN THE DAY, A DIPLOMAT NOTED A 43 VEHICLE CONVOY, CONSISTING OF 37 FUEL TANKS TOWED ON TRAILERS, 2-3 GUN-MOUNTED TRUCKS AND FOUR BTR-70'S, COMING FROM THE JALALABAD ROAD AND HEADING WEST ON PERIMETER ROAD.

-- JANUARY 29: AT 0500 A CONVOY OF APPROXIMATELY THIRTY, PRIMARILY TRACKED VEHICLES, MOVED SOUTHEAST ON BLUE MOSQUE STREET IN THE DIRECTION OF LOGAR. AT 0610 A SOVIET CONVOY, COMPRISING THIRTY-FOUR TRUCKS, THREE BTR'S AND TWO BMP'S WAS STAGED HEADING EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD. AT 0857 A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED A CONVOY OF ELEVEN TRUCKS WITH TWO ZU-23 MOUNTED TRUCKS AND ONE BTR WHICH MOVED WEST THROUGH JAZIR AKBAR KHAN. AT 1700 A RELIABLE OBSERVER SAW A SOVIET CONVOY OF THIRTEEN ZU-23 GUN-MOUNTED TRUCKS, TEN BTR 152'S, THREE TRUCK-TOWED 122MM GUNS, AND THREE LARGER TOWED GUNDS. THE CONVOY MOVED NORTHWEST ON BLUE MOSQUE STREET AND THEN HEADED NORTH. (COMMENT: THIS COLUMN WAS UNUSUAL IN SEVERAL RESPECTS: IT IS RARE TO SEE SO MANY ZU-23'S IN A SINGLE COLUMN AND HIGHLY UNUSUAL TO SEE SOVIETS IN A BTR-152, AN OLD MODEL BTR USUALLY RESERVED FOR DRA TROOPS. END COMMENT).

-- JANUARY 30: A DIPLOMAT SAW SIX BTR-60'S AND EIGHT BTR-80'S MOVING ON TO SALANG ROAD AT 1040. DIPLOMATS OBSERVED DRA CONVOY STAGING IN KHAIR KHANA AT 1030. THE CONVOY, APPARENTLY PREPARING TO MOVE NORTH ON THE SALANG ROAD, INCLUDED 20-25 STAVE-RED TRUCKS, 40-50 COVERED TRUCKS AND SIX BTR'S. AT 1040 A DIPLOMAT NOTED A DRA CONVOY MOVING WEST ON PERIMETER ROAD. IT INCLUDED 120 (EMPTY) TRAILERS AND COVERED TRUCKS.

-- JANUARY 31: AT 0515 APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-FIVE BTR'S AND BMP'S MOVED EAST ON BLUE MOSQUE STREET IN THE DIRECTION OF LOGAR. AT 0555 FIVE BMP'S AND ONE BTR WERE:

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STAGED HEADING EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD (POSSIBLY WAITING FOR THE FORMATION OF A CONVOY TO WHICH THEY WOULD PROVIDE ESCORT.) AT 1300 RELIABLE OBSERVERS NOTED THE RETURN OF TWENTY-FIVE BMP'S AND BTR'S FROM THE DIRECTION OF LOGAR (POSSIBLY THE 0515 CONVOY RETURNING). AT 1040 A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED A LARGE DRA CONVOY CONSISTING OF THIRTY FUEL TRUCKS AND APPROXIMATELY 100 GOVERNMENT-OWNED, COVERED TRUCKS. THE CONVOY WAS ESCORTED BY SIX BTR-152'S, WHOSE CREWS WORE FLACK JACKETS, AND WAS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SALANG ROAD. AT 1340 A SOVIET COLUMN OF ELEVEN BMP'S, SEVEN BTR'S, TWO T-54 TANKS AND TWO COVERED TRUCKS MOVED WEST ON PERIMETER ROAD. AT 1500 A DIPLOMAT NOTED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A T-62 TANK AT THE ARMOR REPAIR FACILITY ON PERIMETER ROAD. THE VEHICLE WAS BADLY DAMAGED, WITH MOST OF THE REAR OF THE TURRET TORN AWAY AND THE BACK END OF THE VEHICLE PARTIALLY CRUSHED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 07 KABUL 0187

(C) --FEBRUARY 1: A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED 30-40 DRA COVERED TRUCKS  
NEAR THE SOVIET HOSPITAL.

--COMBAT IN THE PROVINCES--

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6. KABUL PROVINCE:  
-----(A) CAR BOMB: AT 1220 ON FEBRUARY 1, A MASSIVE CAR BOMB  
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EXPLODED NEAR A MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY (KHAD) OFFICE/ INTERROGATION CENTER. THE BOMB REPORTEDLY CAUSED A NUMBER OF FATALITIES AND INJURED MORE THAN A SCORE OF PEOPLE. LATEST REPORTS CLAIM SEVEN DEAD, APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN STAFF MEMBERS OF THE NEARBY INDIAN EMBASSY REPORTEDLY WERE INJURED. THE BLAST SHATTERED WINDOWS FOR A DISTANCE OF 500 METERS. WITHIN THE BLAST AREA AND SUFFERING DAMAGE WERE A MAJOR SOVIET MILITARY HOSPITAL, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, THE INDIAN EMBASSY AND THE RESIDENCES OF THE INDONESIAN AND U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES (APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS AWAY). THE BLAST MAY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF THE MUJAHIDIN WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE CITY IN RECENT DAYS (SEE FOLLOWING PARA). IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE INCREASING TENSIONS WITHIN THE PDPA AND THE REGIME MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BLAST. BASED ON A VERY LIMITED OBSERVATION OF THE REMAINS OF THE CAR CARRYING THE EXPLOSIVES, IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A VOLGA, A COMMON VEHICLE IN USE BY THE PARTY AND REGIME. FINALLY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ATTACK WAS, AS CLAIMED BY KABUL RADIO FEBRUARY 1, CARRIED OUT BY THOSE "SEEKING TO DAMAGE AFGHAN-INDIAN FRIENDSHIP." IT IS REMOTELY POSSIBLE IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE ATTACK WAS ACTUALLY TARGETED AGAINST THE INDIAN EMBASSY, FOR EXAMPLE, BY SIKHS WHO NUMBER SEVERAL THOUSAND IN KABUL.

(B) KABUL CITY INCIDENTS: ACCORDING TO A SENIOR EAST  
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EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT IN A REPORTED SOURCED TO THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, A VERY LARGE BOMB EXPLODED AT THE AIRPORT SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 1. DIPLOMATS THROUGHOUT KABUL REPORTED HEARING A BLAST AT 0015. IN THE MORNING OF JANUARY 25 GUARDS AT THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY DEFUSED A BOMB THAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN SMUGGLED ONTO THE CAMPUS. SHORTLY AFTER A SMALL PARCEL BOMB EXPLODED ON THE POLYTECHNIC CAMPUS CAUSING INJURIES. AT APPROXIMATELY 1900 TWO ROCKETS, FIRED APPARENTLY FROM CLOSE RANGE, STRUCK THE SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER IN KARTE CHAR. ONE HIT THE MAIN ENTRANCE WHILE THE OTHER HIT A BUILDING NEARBY. ONE REPORTE CONTENDS THAT THREE SOVIETS WERE KILLED. ALSO DURING THE EVENING, MUJAHIDIN UNITS, AGAIN FIRING ROCKETS FROM CLOSE RANGE ATTACKED A LADA VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY. CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN BUT THE CZECH AMBASSADOR HAS ORDERED CZECH NATIONALS WHO HAD WORKED AT THE SITE NOT TO RETURN THERE. IN AN EARLIER INCIDENT ONLY RECENTLY REPORTED, A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS THAT FIVE SOVIETS AND TWO DRA OFFICERS WERE KILLED IN KABUL ON JANUARY 15. ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNT, THEIR THROATS WERE CUT. A MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR SOURCE CLAIMS THAT OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN SIX UNEXPLAINED KILLINGS OF

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KHAD AND POLICE OFFICIALS. A DRA MINISTER HAS  
REPORTEDLY WARNED AN EAST EUROPEAN AMBASSADOR TO AVOID  
BEING IN CROWDS AFTER 1600 BECAUSE OF DETERIORATING  
SECURITY WITHIN THE CITY.

(C) AIRCRAFT DOWNINGS: AFGHAN SOURCES HAVE PROVIDED  
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ACCOUNTS OF THE FOLLOWING AIRCRAFT DOWNING IN THE KABUL  
AREA: ON JANUARY 14 A SOVIET HELICOPTER FROM JALALABAD  
WAS DOWNED BY A MISSILE IN THE SORUBI AREA NEAR CHAPRIKA  
(PHONETIC) VILLAGE. ON APPROXIMATELY JANUARY 23 A MILITARY  
PASSENGER AIRCRAFT (FIXED WING) WAS DOWNED BY A MISSILE IN  
THE SORUBI AREA. SIX PERSONS WERE KILLED. ON JANUARY 25  
OR 26 A DRA PLANE CRASHED NEAR SORUBI DAM. IT STRUCK THE  
DAM'S HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION THEREBY REDUCING THE  
POWER SUPPLY FOR KABUL. A SOVIET JET REPORTEDLY WAS  
DOWNED IN THE SORUBI AREA ON JANUARY 26.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 07 KABUL 0187

(C) - (D) OUTSIDE KABUL CITY:

WESTERN VISITORS TO PAGHAMAN FOUND

THE TOWN AND ITS ENVIRONS BADLY DAMAGED AS A RESULT

OF FIGHTING. THE GREAT ARCH IN THE TOWN'S CENTER.

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REPORTEDLY HAS TAKEN DIRECT HITS AS INDICATED BY THE CHUNKS OF MASONRY MISSING FROM THE STRUCTURE. THERE WERE BTR'S ON MOST HIGH POINTS IN THE AREA, AND AT ONE LOCATION BTR'S WERE SEEN FIRING INTO A HILL AREA. AN AFGHAN REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN UNITS IN THE AREA OF KUNA MOUMA (PHONETIC), ON THE ROAD BETWEEN KABUL AND MAIDAN SHAHR, OVERRAN TWO DRA POSTS ON JANUARY 25. ON JANUARY 24 AT PODKHAW (PHONETIC), TEN KMS SOUTH OF KARUL ON THE LOGAR ROAD, TWELVE DRA TROOPS WERE KILLED WHEN THEIR VEHICLE HIT A MINE.

7. PARWAN

FIGHTING IN PARWAN REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN INTENSE WITH HIGH LOSSES, PARTICULARLY AMONG SOVIET TROOPS. A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON JANUARY 15 MUJAHIDIN DOWNED THREE AIRCRAFT IN THE TAPPEH SORKH (RED HILLS) AREA. THE AIRCRAFT DOWNINGS WERE IN CONNECTION WITH FIGHTING WHICH ERUPTED IN THE AREA AFTER MUJAHIDIN UNITS STRUCK A SOVIET BASE WHICH WAS ALSO A SUBSTATION FOR A FUEL PIPELINE THAT PARALLELS THE SALANG ROAD. AN AFGHAN SOURCE HAS REPORTED THAT ON JANUARY 21 NEAR CHARIKAR ONE DRA JET FIGHTER AND ONE HELICOPTER WERE DOWNED BY MUJAHIDIN. A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS THAT A JET FIGHTER WAS DOWNED ON JANUARY 23 NEAR JABAL SARAJ. A DIPLOMATIC REPORT SOURCED TO AFGHANS HAS TWO SOVIET HELICOPTERS ON APPROXIMATELY JANUARY 25, SHOT DOWN WITH ONE SOVIET PILOT CAPTURED BY MUJAHIDIN. ON THE 29TH, ACCORDING TO AFGHAN AND DIPLOMAT REPORTS, TWO JET FIGHTERS WERE DOWNED AND TWO SENIOR SOVIET OFFICERS CAPTURED. RELIABLE DIPLOMATS STATE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEGUN NEGOTIATIONS, OFFERING EXCHANGES OF UP TO 200 MUJAHIDIN PRISONERS FOR THE RELEASE OF TWO SENIOR SOVIETS. THUS FAR THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE COME TO NAUGHT.

8. NANGARHAR:

AN AFGHAN SOURCE OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY REPORTS THAT ON JANUARY 14 THREE HELICOPTERS WERE DOWNED BY MUJAHIDIN AT A POINT APPROXIMATELY 30 KMS SOUTHWEST OF JALALABAD. THE SAME SOURCE REPORTS THAT DURING THE FIRST PART OF THE PAST WEEK MUJAHIDIN UNITS LAUNCHED HEAVY ROCKET ATTACKS ON THE CITY. A SEPARATE UNTESTED AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN SHOT DOWN TWO HELICOPTERS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

9. GHAZNI:

A DIPLOMAT OF PROVEN RELIABILITY REPORTS THAT FIGHTING IN THE GHAZNI AREA HAS BEEN HEAVY FOLLOWING THE DECLARED JANUARY 15 CEASE-FIRE. IN ONE SPECIFIC INCIDENT REPORTED BY A USUALLY RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE, A SOVIET TANK STRUCK A MINE AND WAS DESTROYED AT QARABAGH ON JANUARY 23.

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10. HERAT:

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A SOURCE OF UNTESTED RELIABILITY REPORTS THAT AT SOME TIME AFTER THE DECLARED CEASE-FIRE SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING TOOK PLACE IN THE VICINITY OF ISLAM QALA (ON THE IRANIAN BORDER AND THE MAIN ROAD FROM HERAT). THE SAME SOURCE REPORTS THAT DURING THE REPORTING WEEK MUJAHIDIN FORCES STRUCK A CONVOY, DESTROYING TWO TANKS AND SEVERAL OTHER TRACKED VEHICLES. IN ANOTHER REPORT WITH FEW DETAILS, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A DRA POST NEAR HERAT. IN THE ATTACK TWO DRA TANKS AND ONE JEEP WERE DESTROYED, REFLECTING THE VERY WEAK POSITION OF THE DRA (AND SOVIETS) IN THE AREA. DRA DEFENSE MINISTER RAFIE RECENTLY WARNED THE CZECH AMBASSADOR AGAINST DISPATCHING CZECH EXPERTS TO THE CITY TO PERFORM SOME NEEDED TECHNICAL REPAIRS BECAUSE IT WAS "TOO DANGEROUS."

11. WARDAK:

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A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS THAT IN SEYYEDABAD THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING ON JANUARY 29-30. BECAUSE OF THE FIGHTING, TRAFFIC ON THE KABUL-GHAZNI ROAD WAS BLOCKED FOR TWO DAYS. EVENTUALLY, ARMOR UNITS FROM GHAZNI ARRIVED TO ASSIST THE DRA FORCES. AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE GHAZNI ROAD, IN WESTERN KABUL, A WESTERN DIPLOMAT NOTED A PILE-UP OF DRA ARMOR AND TROOPS AT 1700 ON JANUARY 30.

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(C) 12. BAGHLAN: AT KHENJAN ON THE SALANG ROAD, MUJAHIDIN

UNITS ATTACKED A SOUTH-MOVING SOVIET PETROL TANKER CONVOY  
ON JANUARY 22. THERE IS A LATE DECEMBER-EARLY JANUARY  
REPORT OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN THE NAHRIN AREA, WITH  
COMMANDER MASSOD SCORING A MAJOR VICTORY AND SECURING

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THE SURRENDER OF A LARGE NUMBER OF DRA TROOPS.

13. KANDAHAR AND BALKH: THERE ARE RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC REPORTS OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN THESE PROVINCES, BUT NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE.

14. VPAKTIA: A RELIABLE AFGHAN REPORTED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 29 FIFTEEN WOUNDED DRA SOLDIERS WERE BROUGHT FROM RECENT FIGHTING IN GARDEZ TO THE WAZIR AKBAR KHAN HOSPITAL.

#### 15. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION:

(A) ACCORDING TO A DIPLOMATIC REPORT SOURCED TO AFGHANS, A 14-MAN DELEGATION ON BEHALF OF THE RECONCILIATION COMMISSION AND UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS ~~KHALILULLAH KOHISTANI~~ RECENTLY TRAVELLED TO THE TOWN OF KOHISTAN IN PARWAN PROVINCE IN AN EFFORT TO CONVINCE MUJAHIDIN GROUP LED BY COMMANDER FARID (PHONETIC) TO JOIN THE "RECONCILIATION" PROCESS. THE MUJAHIDIN TOOK ALL MEMBERS EXCEPT ~~KOHISTANI~~ PRISONER AND SENT THE DEPUTY MINISTER BACK TO CABUL WITH THE MESSAGE THAT THERE COULD BE NO ARRANGEMENT UNTIL THE SOVIETS LEAVE AFTER WHICH TIME THE GROUP WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK TO THE REGIME AND CONSIDER SHARING POWER.

(B) THERE CONTINUED TO BE AFGHAN-SOURCED REPORTS INDICATING, AS NOTED REFTEL, THAT THE REGIME'S ASSERTIONS ABOUT LARGE NUMBERS OF RETURNING REFUGEES ARE BOGGS. ONE AFGHAN SAW A CLOSE RELATIVE ON TV DEPICTED AS A RETURNEE. IN FACT THE MAN WORKS FOR THE REGIME AND HAS NOT BEEN ABROAD.

(C) ACCORDING TO A REPORT SOURCED TO DIPLOMATS, THE DRA HAS CONTINUED TO ALLEGE THAT PAKISTAN (AND IRAN) ARE PREVENTING REFUGEES WHO WISH TO RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN FROM PAKISTAN FROM DOING SO. REPORTEDLY THE PAKISTANIS HAVE COUNTERED THAT THE DRA APPARENTLY DOES NOT BELIEVE ITS OWN PROPAGANDA WHICH REPORTS DAILY ON THE RETURN OF REFUGEES FROM PAKISTAN.

(D) DRA MEDIA HAVE REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL ACCORD OF KUNDUZ PROVINCE WAS KILLED JANUARY 29, APPARENTLY BY THE MUJAHIDIN.

#### 16. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) DIPLOMATS HAVE REPORTED THAT MINISTER OF TRIBES AND NATIONALITIES SULAIMAN LAIQ IS IN MOSCOW FOR TREATMENT OF A HEART AILMENT.

(B) AN EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT REPORTEDLY WAS TOLD BY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL WAKIL THAT THE LATTER WOULD PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA ON FEBRUARY 10. THE VISIT APPEARS TO BE THE FIRST AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL SINCE THE SOVIET INVASION.

(C) THREE AMERICAN-AFGHANS HAVE VISITED KABUL, REPORTEDLY TO SPEAK TO THE REGIME ON THE THEME OF RECONCILIATION. IN A INTERVIEW WITH NOVOSTY PRESS, CARRIED IN THE KABUL NEW TIMES, THE LEADER OF THE

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DELEGATION. ZIA NASSRY, EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR NOMINATING  
NAJIB FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION  
SUCCEEDS.

17. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) KABUL CONTINUES TO SUFFER SHORTAGES OF DIESEL  
AND ELECTRICITY. AN EAST EUROPEAN AMBASSADOR HAS DESCRIBED  
THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM DUE TO A LACK OF WATER  
FOR HYDRO-ELECTRIC SYSTEMS WHICH PROVIDES ELECTRICITY  
IN KABUL. SNOWS WHICH FURNISH WATER FOR IRRIGATION AS  
WELL AS POWER FOR GENERATION HAVE BEEN EXCEEDINGLY  
LIGHT THIS WINTER, CONTINUING THE PATTERN OF RECENT  
YEARS AND RAISING THE PROSPECT OF A SEVERE DROUGHT IN  
THE CAPITAL AREA AND ELSEWHERE IN AFGHANISTAN. THE  
REGIME HAS IMPLEMENTED ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES  
LIMITING THE USE OF ELECTRICITY IN BOTH GOVERNMENT  
AND NON-GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

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(C) - (B) KABUL MEDIA HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT A SPECIAL  
BANK ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO RECEIVE  
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RETURNING REFUGEES.

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18. SOVIETIZATION:

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AN AFGHAN BUSINESSMAN WHO IMPORTS PHARMACEUTICALS RECENTLY COMPLAINED TO DIPLOMATS THAT THE REGIME PRESSURES BUSINESSMEN TO TRADE ONLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER CEMA COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION FOR IMPORTING PRODUCTS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES, LOCAL BUSINESS MUST SHOW EVIDENCE OF ALSO IMPORTING FROM FIRMS IN THE SOVIET UNION OR OTHER BLOCK NATION. THIS BUSINESSMAN NOTED THAT IMPORTING FROM THE BLOC PRESENTS SEVERAL PROBLEMS: UNLIKE TRANSACTIONS WITH WESTERN NATIONS, ORDERS FROM THE BLOC MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT IN FULL. MOREOVER, THERE ARE FREQUENTLY LONG DELAYS IN THE ARRIVAL OF CONSIGNMENTS. HE STATED THAT ONE MEDICAL ORDER FROM HUNGARY FOR WHICH HE PAID IN ADVANCE REMAINS UNFILLED AFTER ONE YEAR. FINALLY, HE OBSERVED THAT PRODUCTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND CEMA COUNTRIES INVARIABLY ARE OF POORER QUALITY THAN THOSE FROM THE WEST. AS A RESULT, HE JUDGES THAT THE QUALITY OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN KABUL HAS DECLINED.

19. KABUL MEDIA:

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KABUL MEDIA DURING THE WEEK WERE DOMINATED BY REPORTS OF RETURNING REFUGEES AND THEIR RECEPTION BY LOCAL OFFICIALS. REGIME ACCUSATIONS OF MUJAHIDIN VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE, WHICH WERE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK BY KABUL MEDIA, WERE NOT REPEATED THIS WEEK. THE REGIME PRESS, SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CEASE-FIRE, HAVE INTRODUCED SOME FORMAT CHANGES IN SUPPORT OF CEASE-FIRE/RECONCILIATION EXERCISE. THE MASTHEAD OF THE KABUL NEW TIMES NOW INCLUDES A CLASPED-HANDS SYMBOL AND THE DAILY DARI LANGUAGE HAQAHAT-E-INOALABI SAUR (THE PARTY NEWSPAPER) NOW FEATURES IN ADDITION TO THE HANDS-CLASPED LOGO, ATTRACTIVE ISLAMIC GREEN GRAPHICS.

19. QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

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IN A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SPEECH, PRIME MINISTER SULTAN ALI KESHTMAYD OBSERVED THAT "FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DRA AND THE SOVIET UNION DO NOT RECOGNIZE BORDERS.

20. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

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A DIPLOMAT HAS OBSERVED NEW ARMOR LOCATED AT THE REAR OF THE TURRET OF SOME BMP-2'S. THE ARMOR IS POSITIONED APPROXIMATELY 30CM FROM THE BACK OF THE TURRET.

21. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

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